

# How big is big enough?: Immigration isn't the be all and end all

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## Body

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Re: "City looks for ways to attract immigrants," The Journal, April 14.

I believe that immigrants' needs should be provided for, including giving them opportunities to use the skills and qualifications they have previously acquired.

I am aware that there needs to be a more equitable dispersal of immigrants; their disproportionate influx into Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver creates problems for these cities.

I agree that Edmonton is still a small city relatively speaking, but I don't see any advantage in its being any bigger. I don't subscribe to the dogma that continual growth of the economy is the only way to move forward, and a concomitant influx of newcomers is the only way to sustain the economy.

Why does Edmonton need more residents? It is struggling to service those it already has ("Big drainage bill coming," April 14, and "Some jobs move into slow lane: City will postpone parts of lower-profile projects," April 19).

Internationally renowned and respected scientist David Schindler suggested in a report on Alberta's water crisis ("Alta. called drain on its neighbours: 'Pull out the stops' to conserve U of A expert urges," The Journal, April 4) that it is time to begin the debate on "how many people this province can really support." Are any of our leaders going to take him up on this?

More and more scientists are coming on board to call global warming the biggest crisis now facing humanity, not to mention thousands of other species.

Yet Alberta endeavours to suck oil out of the ground faster than is humanly tolerable, without regard for local and global consequences. And the federal government irresponsibly is cutting funds for research into climate change. Does Edmonton want to aid and abet this stupidity?

Instead of fanning the flames of an overheated, planet-destroying economy by bringing in more people, our politicians should be helping to adjust the pace of economic activity to correspond with a sustainable labour and resource supply.

Why do we continue to believe that we can have our cake (prosperity) and eat it too (destroying the environment on which economy depends)?

Perhaps it's for the same reason that some of us believe in the Easter bunny. It defies logic, but it's a nice idea.

P.J. Cotterill, Edmonton

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